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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHDM #0282 1061158
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 161158Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6258
INFO RUEHGVA/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0676
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0593

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 000282

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ELA, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [SY](#)
SUBJECT: RE: DEMARCHE REQUEST - HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 36629

1. (SBU) Charge d'Affaires delivered the diplomatic note contained in reftel to Vice Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad on April 15. Miqdad harkened back to his tenure at the Syrian Mission to the UN in New York and recalled that Syria had vowed its support for the U.S. candidacy to the now-defunct UN Commission on Human Rights. After the vote, Miqdad, said, he had been asked if Syria had indeed supported the ultimately unsuccessful U.S. candidacy; he recalled his reply: "When Syria gives its word it keeps it." Obviously intrigued by the news the U.S. was seeking a seat on the Human Rights Council, Miqdad told the Charge that the Syrian government would "seriously look into the issue with great interest."
CONNELLY